

Secretary LaHood announces wind down to hugely popular CARS program

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced Thursday that after a wildly successful run, the cash for clunkers program will come to a close on Monday, August 24th at 8 p.m. EST.

[Click here for the full Press Release](#)

[Click here for Wind Down Strategy](#)

New CARS Guidance

In response to overwhelming interest in the CARS program, NHTSA has clarified that consumers who want to purchase new vehicles not yet on dealer lots can still be eligible for the CARS program. Dealers and consumers who have reached a valid purchase and sale agreement on a vehicle already in the production pipeline will be able to work with the manufacturer to receive the documentation needed to qualify for the program.

YOU ASKED. WE LISTENED.

We've heard that dealers are asking consumers to sign agreements with contingencies when they participate in the CARS program.

CONSUMERS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO SIGN CONTINGENCY AGREEMENTS TO PAY BACK THE DEALER SHOULD THE CARS CREDIT BE REJECTED.

We've also heard that dealers are asking consumers to keep their "clunker" until the deal is approved by NHTSA.

IF THE DEALER HAS THE NEW CAR IN STOCK, THE DEALER MUST ALLOW YOU TO TAKE POSSESSION OF THE NEW CAR BEFORE THE DEALER MAY SUBMIT THE CREDIT APPLICATION TO THE GOVERNMENT. PLEASE REPORT ANY DEALER TO NHTSA THAT DOES NOT ALLOW YOU TO TAKE POSSESSION OF A NEW CAR PURCHASED UNDER THE CARS PROGRAM. PLEASE CALL THE CARS HOTLINE AT (866)-CAR-7891.

To find out more about dealer contingencies [click here](#).

Important Information on new MPG Ratings:

In conjunction with the CARS final rule, EPA updated fuel economy data on fuelconomy.gov on July 24th. The changes affected the eligibility of certain vehicles under the CARS program.

Of the 30,000 vehicle model types spanning 25 years, 78 cars no longer qualify, but 86 new vehicles are now eligible.

NHTSA will process transactions in accordance with the data on fuelconomy.gov. The 78 vehicle model types that were eligible under EPA's mileage criteria until EPA's revisions were issued on July 24th will continue to be considered as eligible for transactions that occurred on or before July 24th.

The 86 model types that became eligible on July 24th will be treated as eligible if they are part of sale or lease that occurred on or after July 24th.

[Click here](#) to view the list of eligible cars

[Click here](#) to view the list of ineligible cars

To search all vehicles, click the MPG Ratings tab at the top of the page

What is the Car Allowance Rebate System?

The CAR Allowance Rebate System (CARS) is a \$3 billion government program that helps consumers buy or lease a more environmentally friendly vehicle from a participating dealer when they trade in a less fuel-efficient car or truck. The program is designed to energize the economy; boost auto sales and put safer, cleaner and more fuel-efficient vehicles on the nation's roadways.

Consumers will be able to take advantage of this program and receive a \$3,500 or \$4,500 discount from the car dealer when they trade in their old vehicle and purchase or lease a new one. Consumers you do not need to register anywhere or at anytime for this program. However, to find out eligibility requirements [click here](#).

What is NHTSA doing to guard against fraud? Click [here](#) for more information. Allegations of fraud may be reported by calling our toll-free 24-hour hotline at 1-800-424-9071.

NHTSA will strictly enforce all CARS Program requirements stated in the CARS Act and the regulations.

Check back to this site often for updates and further information.

Consumer Bill of Rights

- Qualified consumers may participate in the CARS Program between July 1, 2009 and November 1, 2009 or when authorized funds are no longer available.
- Qualified consumers will receive a credit of \$3,500 or \$4,500 for an eligible trade-in toward the purchase or lease of an approved vehicle under CARS Program.
- Qualified consumers will receive the \$3,500 or \$4,500 credit at the time the purchase their new vehicle.
- Dealers must provide consumers with any other advertised rebates or discounts in addition to the credit they receive through the CARS Program.
- Consumers should expect to conduct their deals at their dealership of choice, not on the Internet.
- Consumers should expect the dealers to provide their best estimate of the scrap value for their eligible trade-in vehicle. Dealers are allowed to deduct \$50 from this value for their administrative costs.
- Consumers should expect that all information collected through the CARS Program will be kept confidential. Social Security numbers are **not** required for a CARS transaction.